

## PHIL – 102 ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

(A) Course number and title: PHIL 102 **Ancient and Medieval Philosophy**

(B) Date of Revision: Spring 2007

(C) Sponsoring Department: Humanities and Social Science

(D) Semester Credit hours: 3 credits

(E) Weekly Contact Hours: 3    Lecture: 3  
    Laboratory: 0

(F) Prerequisites: None

(G) Laboratory Fees: N/A

This course will be devoted to the thought of the pre-Socratic Greeks, the Sophists, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, and later schools of thought, such as the Stoics and Epicureans, and to that of such medieval figures as Anselm and Thomas Aquinas.

This course provides a valuable account of the origins and (roughly) first 1,500 years of the Western philosophical tradition.

A.

- Humanities elective
- Free elective

- pre-Socratic philosophers and early cosmology

- the sophistic movement and questions about the good life
- Socrates and Plato
- Aristotle
- Augustine
- the later medievals: Anselm and Aquinas

## **VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes**

### **Educational Goals**

Students will:

- gain historical understanding of the early Greek thinkers, the later Greeks and Romans, and outstanding thinkers of the middle ages (GE 4, 5, 6)
- develop their own thought about these ideas at length in both speech and writing (GE 1, 2, 5, 6)
- demonstrate an understanding of how these philosophers are relevant to current discussion and to present day life (GE 1, 2, 5, 6).

### **Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to

- provide written accounts of Plato's dialogues and works by Aristotle
- provide written accounts of works by later classical thinkers such as Epicurus, Seneca, and Marcus Aurelius
- provide written accounts of Augustine's defense of Christianity; Anselm's ontological argument, and Aquinas' analysis of the idea of God
- provide criticism of these items
- articulate responses to key discussion questions in small group and class-wide discussion
- present a discussion of one key problem in ancient or medieval thought to the class.

## **VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning**

- lecture
- small group discussion
- class-wide discussion
- student presentation in seminar format

## **VIII. Papers, examinations, and other assessment instruments**

- extensive written exam
- individual class presentation on a related topic of student's choice.

### **IX. Grade determinants**

- exam
- classroom performance
- in-class presentation

### **X. Texts and materials**

Projected materials include Anthony Kenny, *A History of Western Philosophy*, volume I (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), ISBN # 0198752725; Catherine Osborne, *Pre-Socratic Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), ISBN # 0192840940; and Louis Pojman, editor, *Philosophical Traditions*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Thomson Wadsworth, 2006), ISBN # 0-534-57042-9.

### **XI. Resources**

- texts
- library resources
- photocopy